

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 22 and 23 and has cancelled Claims 6-14 and 21. Claims 1-5, 15-20 and 22-40 remain pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that Claim 8 was incorrectly provided with the "Original" status identifier and should have been identified as "Currently Amended". Applicant has cancelled Claim 8 and therefore, it is believed that the issue with respect to the status identifier for this claim has been rendered moot.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 10-14, 21, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,709,812 to Kosterka (hereinafter "Kosterka"). Applicant has cancelled Claims 10-14 and 21 and therefore it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection to these claims has been rendered moot.

Concerning the Examiner's rejection of Claims 23-25, Applicant provides the following remarks. In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that Claim 22 was objected to as being dependant upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 22 has been so amended to include all of the limitations of base Claim 21. Moreover, Claim 23 has been amended so as to depend from allowable Claim 22. Therefore, since amended Claim 23 now depends from allowable Claim 22 and Claims 24 and 25 each depend from Claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection

of Claim 23-25 has been obviated and an action acknowledging the same is respectfully submitted.

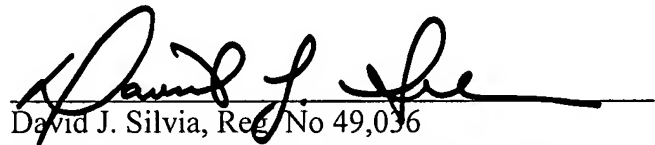
In the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosterka in view of Gelardi et al. (U.S. 5,884,761). Claims 6-9 have been cancelled and therefore it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of these claims has been obviated and an action acknowledging the same is requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1-5, 15-20, 22 and 26-40 are allowable.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

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